

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 39

By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to express the sorrow and sadness of the people of Tennessee at the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia, and to offer condolences to the families and friends of the seven crew members.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure that the pioneering spirit of the American people would ever prevail to explore all frontiers; the men and women who serve NASA so valiantly have chosen to further the scientific mission of this nation, at great risk to themselves, through the "bold exploration of space"; and

WHEREAS, on the morning of February 1, 2003, Tennesseans were shocked and horrified by the sudden loss of the shuttle orbiter Columbia and her crew: Colonel Rick Douglas Husband, USAF; Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, USAF; Captain David M. Brown, USN; Commander Laurel Blair Salton Clark, M.D., USN; Commander William C. McCool, USN; Dr. Kalpana Chawla; and Colonel Ilan Ramon, Israeli Air Force; and

WHEREAS, we mourn the loss of these public servants, who worked with great courage and acumen in service of scientific advancement and the betterment of life on Earth; these astronauts served this nation and the world with great enthusiasm and integrity in space exploration; and

WHEREAS, the seven crew members of the shuttle orbiter Columbia worked tirelessly and with the utmost selflessness for a National Aeronautics and Space Administration program that continues to bring about scientific innovations that improve the daily lives of people around the globe; and

WHEREAS, we offer our sympathy and our prayers to the families of the seven astronauts, who suffered such tremendous loss during a time that should have been filled with great hope and pride for their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, we also express our most sincere condolences to the people of Israel at the loss of Ilan Ramon, a true patriot of that country as a Colonel in the Israeli Air Force, and a national hero as the first Israeli astronaut; and

WHEREAS, may the dedication to duty and longing to discover that lived within each crew member of the Columbia serve as an inspiration to present and future generations as they reach for the stars; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to honor the sacrifice of the seven astronauts who gave their lives for their countries and for the scientific advancement of all the people of Earth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Colonel Rick Douglas Husband, USAF; Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, USAF; Captain David M. Brown, USN; Commander Laurel Blair Salton Clark, M.D., USN; Commander William C. McCool, USN; Dr. Kalpana Chawla; and Colonel Ilan Ramon, Israeli Air Force: the seven men and women who, in pursuit of greater knowledge and in service of all mankind, gave their lives in the loss of the shuttle orbiter Columbia on the morning of February 1, 2003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our prayers and offer our most sincere condolences to the families of these seven brave pioneers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the family of each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.